



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending May 9, 2010

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Good Week for Field Work: Weather conditions for the majority of the week were favorable for planting and harvesting of crops. At the end of the week, some parts of the state experienced thunderstorms accompanied by hail. The weekend brought unseasonably cold and windy weather. Pennsylvania had a total of 5 days suitable for field work. Primary field activities were: plowing, planting corn and soybeans, and cutting rye and haylage. Spring plowing continues, and is 79% completed, ahead of last year's estimate of 72% and slightly behind the average of 80%.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 9, 2010

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	6	89	5

Crop Progress: Corn is 54% planted, well ahead of last year's 28% and the average of 47%. Corn emergence is 16%, compared to 12% last year and the 12% average. Barley is 75% headed, ahead of last year's 58%, and the average estimate of 61%. Winter Wheat is 20% headed, ahead of both last year's 16% and the average of 18%. Oats are 92% planted, ahead of both last year's 88%, and the average of 90%. Sixty-nine percent of oats have emerged which is ahead of last year's estimate of 53% and the average of 48%. Soybeans are 19% planted, ahead of both last year's 7% and the average of 14%. Potatoes are 52% planted, ahead of both last year's 24% and the average of 44%. Alfalfa first cutting is 18% complete which is well ahead of last year's estimate of 2% and the average of 6%.

Crop Condition: State-wide wheat condition is 1% poor, 20% fair, 54% good, and 25% excellent. Oats condition is 16% fair, 70% good, and 14% excellent. Alfalfa stand conditions are 2% poor, 19% fair, 60% good, and 19% excellent. Timothy Clover stand conditions are 3% poor, 15% fair, 59% good, and 23% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 3% very poor, 3% poor, 22% fair, 61% good and 11% excellent. Peach conditions are 4% fair, 82% good, and 14% excellent. Apple conditions are 7% fair and 93% good.

Nationwide as of May 2, 2010: While much of the country east of the Great Plains experienced at or above average temperatures, areas along the Pacific Coast, in the Rocky Mountains, and in the Great Plains recorded temperatures as many as nine degrees below normal. Relatively dry weather prevailed across much of the Nation during the week, with many regions receiving less than one inch of precipitation. However, late-week thunderstorms dumped heavy rainfall on portions of Kentucky and Tennessee causing severe flooding, limiting fieldwork, and damaging some crops in low-lying areas near creeks and rivers. **Corn:** Nationally, 68 percent of the corn crop was planted by week's end, 36 percentage points ahead of last year and 28 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Producers throughout much of the major corn-producing areas continued to plant at a rapid pace. With fieldwork in full swing under favorable conditions, the most progress was evident in the Great Lakes region, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania, where 20 percent or more of the crop was planted during the week. Overall, emergence advanced 12 percentage points during the week. At 19 percent complete, emergence was 15 percentage points ahead of last year and 10 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Warm, sunny conditions in areas of the Corn Belt promoted rapid emergence during the week. **Soybeans:** By May 2, producers had planted 15 percent of the Nation's soybean crop, 10 percentage points ahead of last year and seven percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Planting was most advanced in the Delta, where 33 percent or more the crop was in the ground by week's end. **Winter Wheat:** Twenty-seven percent of the winter wheat crop was at or beyond the heading stage by May 2, on par with last year's progress but 4 percentage points behind the 5-year average. The most significant delay was evident in Oklahoma, where progress was 17 percentage points, or nearly one week behind normal. Overall, 68 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down slightly from ratings last week but 21 percentage points better than a year ago.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 9, 2010

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 9, 2010					
	Temperature			DFN	Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average		Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	81	39	59	6	0.93	5	3.53	-0.64	17	271	196	582
Franklin	82	35	58	6	2.28	6	4.21	-0.36	15	225	151	537
Meadville	80	36	58	7	1.58	5	3.84	-0.48	15	225	167	532
Mercer	80	36	59	6	1.64	5	3.83	-0.54	14	245	168	564
Springboro	79	36	57	4	1.06	5	3.77	-0.28	16	212	131	487
Warren	81	36	59	7	1.27	5	3.43	-1.18	14	204	139	509
North Central												
Bradford Region	75	30	54	6	1.31	6	3.22	-1.24	15	170	133	426
Oswayo	79	31	53	3	1.33	5	3.82	-0.32	15	136	86	378
Kane	77	31	54	6	1.28	5	2.66	-2.07	12	129	94	379
Laporte	75	34	58	5	1.35	7	3.89	-0.46	22	198	113	492
Lock Haven	81	40	60	6	1.33	6	3.11	-0.96	12	268	173	618
Port Allegany	78	34	55	5	1.22	6	3.30	-0.84	15	157	107	424
Renovo	82	39	59	6	1.58	6	3.11	-0.96	12	243	148	591
Ridgway	78	33	55	5	1.33	5	3.52	-1.09	14	156	111	428
Stevenson Dam	82	38	58	7	1.03	5	3.29	-1.32	11	198	153	533
Towanda	82	39	59	6	0.73	6	2.75	-1.14	13	204	118	526
Wellsboro	75	32	55	6	0.93	6	3.11	-0.09	13	166	127	454
Williamsport	83	43	64	8	1.09	4	3.00	-1.28	11	363	233	737
Northeast												
Hawley	86	37	58	7	0.42	4	4.00	-0.54	13	161	110	451
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	82	39	62	8	0.58	6	2.78	-1.18	14	296	192	633
Susquehanna	83	35	59	9	1.31	7	3.59	-1.16	17	192	148	505
West Central												
Butler	79	37	58	5	1.45	4	3.95	-0.34	15	219	128	535
New Castle	83	37	60	7	1.76	4	4.21	0.23	15	266	187	596
Slippery Rock	81	36	59	6	1.75	5	4.20	0.07	16	244	175	574
Central												
Altoona/Blair	77	38	61	6	1.22	5	4.28	0.12	13	305	188	640
DuBois	76	34	57	4	1.50	6	3.44	-0.98	15	268	194	589
Lewistown	80	42	61	5	1.48	7	3.26	-0.78	15	284	138	647
Middletown	83	45	66	8	3.49	4	5.19	0.77	11	373	200	748
Prince Gallitzi	79	34	57	4	1.46	6	4.39	-1.20	14	191	124	503
Selinsgrove	80	42	61	6	0.70	5	2.99	-1.23	12	252	138	611
State College	80	37	61	6	1.16	6	2.44	-1.44	14	299	198	644
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	84	43	64	8	1.91	4	5.34	0.64	13	300	166	658
Lehighton	86	43	63	7	1.57	5	5.03	0.54	13	272	146	626
Matamoras	89	39	61	7	0.63	4	3.73	-1.49	10	205	105	536
Mt_Pocono	82	36	60	11	0.57	4	4.08	-1.30	12	220	185	529
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	81	38	62	7	1.46	5	2.82	-1.56	12	396	277	736
Indiana_PA	79	36	58	4	1.70	5	3.97	-0.89	13	238	124	567
Myersdale	76	35	54	0	1.99	6	4.23	-0.98	15	139	50	419
Mount Pleasant	83	39	60	8	2.12	4	4.37	-0.93	13	275	209	593
Pittsburgh Intl	83	37	61	5	1.18	4	2.94	-1.20	12	364	230	701
Connellsville	85	40	62	6	2.07	7	4.58	-0.41	17	330	190	672
Waynesburg	84	40	60	6	2.00	4	3.69	-0.88	12	270	164	592
South Central												
Biglerville	82	42	64	6	1.11	2	3.07	-1.37	9	330	157	688
Everett	80	40	59	4	1.77	4	4.53	0.12	13	219	114	556
Hanover	85	43	65	8	0.71	2	2.59	-1.85	11	342	169	700
Harrisburg_AP	82	43	66	8	3.18	4	5.07	0.65	10	366	190	734
South Mountain	78	39	59	4	0.80	4	2.90	-1.26	10	230	117	557
York	84	41	65	7	0.98	3	2.83	-1.82	11	312	133	666
Southeast												
Green Lane	86	44	66	10	1.26	3	3.70	-1.21	11	332	208	703
Hamburg	83	43	64	10	2.46	4	5.32	0.14	9	330	238	697
West_Chester	88	44	65	8	1.17	1	3.99	-1.10	9	306	141	668
Lancaster	85	42	65	8	1.70	3	3.56	-0.95	11	324	186	684
Neshaminy Falls	82	44	64	8	0.55	1	3.07	-2.23	10	332	197	706
New Holland	86	42	66	9	1.48	3	4.04	-0.47	12	354	216	714
Philadelphia	89	48	70	11	0.61	2	3.26	-1.47	13	464	270	851
Philadelphia NE	89	46	68	9	0.78	2	3.34	-1.39	20	405	211	788
Reading	86	44	67	11	2.73	4	5.54	0.47	11	387	264	762
Sellersville	86	43	64	9	1.62	3	4.26	-0.65	12	289	165	642
Willow Grove	87	44	67	11	0.53	2	2.68	-2.62	12	383	248	760

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).
 Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.
 Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.
 Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.
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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney - The county had a pretty nice week of weather. Monday started out rainy and then cleared off around lunchtime and temperatures were in the 70s. Tuesday through Friday was sunny and reached into the 80s. Saturday was rainy early and windy and into the 60s. Sunday was sunny and windy and temperatures were also in the 60s. Sunday night into today temperatures dipped to 28 degrees and frost in the county. Producers were very busy with fieldwork this week. Corn and soybeans are being planted. Some earlier planted corn and soybeans are emerging now. Wheat and barley are looking a little better with warmer weather and sunshine. Some areas though still do not look very good where it laid wet last fall and winter. Fruit crops are looking pretty good but the cold temperatures will have affect on crops. Strawberries are starting to be harvested in the county. Overall, everything is earlier than most years. Hopefully we will get some rainfall throughout the summer to keep the crops going.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - Most apples that needed thinning have been chemically thinned. While it is a bit early to determine ultimate fruit set, most varieties appear to have good crop potential. Stone fruits continue to develop normally. There are no remarkable insect or disease problems at this time.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker- Corn planting is nearly complete. Rainfall during the week totaled close to three inches.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner - On early Saturday morning the counties had high winds, hail, rain, and a thunder storm. Many trees blown over, buildings damaged, and some flooding. Many farmers finished planting small grains and many acres of corn were planted. The winter wheat looks good. The spring planting season is well ahead of last year. The frost Monday morning more than likely damaged the apple and peach blooms.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - The weather this week was cooler and wetter. Despite the weather, there were many acres planted with corn. The weekend received the worst weather with high winds, hail and snow. Pasture conditions are improving rapidly and most producers have their livestock out of the barn.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Eugene Sweigard - Frost in some areas during the week may have affected some fruit.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis - The frost affected grapes in the western section of the county.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - It was a fairly good week for field work. There are a lot of first cutting of alfalfa being chopped now. The frosty temperatures did not seem to hurt the fruit.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff - Planting of corn and some sweet corn took place last week. The county had close to one inch of rain this past week. If weather permits, soybean planting will be underway.

LANCASTER Burell Whitworth Jr. (NRCS) – Planting corn and soybeans were the main activities last week. Cutting ryelage and spraying fields are winding down. There was a lot of hay made last week.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust - Field work and planting continued all week through Friday evening with no disruption of rain. On Saturday morning there were large size hail pellets that covered the area. The hail storm was followed by high winds gusting up to 50 MPH throughout the day. The Sunday morning temperature was 34 degrees F. Monday morning temperature was 27 degrees F at sunrise.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield - The dry, windy weather with little rain late in the week helped the ground dry and planting to progress nicely. Rye is being cut for straw and some farmers are done corn and moving to soybean planting.

POTTER COUNTY, Bill Waltman - There was frost damage to blossoming trees last night.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr - Wet conditions slowed field work throughout the County this past week. THE cold weather predicted for the coming few days has raised concern among the growers with sensitive crops in the field.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - Showers during the week were a help to the crops; however, the strong winds at the end of the week caused minor damage. The main activities for the week were planting, spraying, and harvesting haylage and ryelage.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - Good progress continued to be made in corn and soybean planting along with some alfalfa harvest.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 9, 2010

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	79	72	80
Corn, planted	54	28	47
Corn, emerged	16	12	12
Barley, heading or headed	75	58	61
Wheat, heading or headed	20	16	18
Oats, planted	92	88	90
Oats, emerged	69	53	48
Soybeans, planted	19	7	14
Soybeans, emerged	5	3	1
Potatoes, planted	52	24	44
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	18	2	6

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 9, 2010

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	1	20	54	25
Oats	0	0	16	70	14
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	2	19	60	19
Timothy clover stand	0	3	15	59	23
Pasture	3	3	22	61	11
Peaches	0	0	4	82	14
Apples	0	0	7	93	0

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